Inadequate health care in the country

2988. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of health care in the country is grossly inadequate;

(b) if so, whether the ratio of hospital beds per thousand people is an abysmal 1.5 as against the World Health Organisation standard of 3.2 beds;

(c) whether in view of this Government are considering to give more role for private sector in boosting the facilities of health; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to provide adequate health care in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A vast network of primary, secondary and tertiary health care infrastructure has been created in the country. However, there may be some shortcomings with regard to quality of health care in terms of supply of drugs and deployment of health professionals.

(b) the ratio of hospital beds per thousand population in the country is around 0.7 and the ratio of all types of beds per thousand population is around 0.9.

(c) and (d) The role of the private sector in health care services is well recognised by the Government. The Draft National Health Policy, 2002 which is presently under finalisation welcomes participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities, primary, secondary or tertiary. Some of the important measures envisaged in this policy include enactment of suitable legislation for regulating minimum infrastructure and quality standards in clinical establishments/medical institutions, development of statutory guidelines for the conduct of clinical practice and delivery of medical services, setting up of private insurance instruments for increasing the scope of the coverage of the secondary and tertiary sector under

private health insurance packages and building up of reliable data base of private sector in the delivery of health care services.

Popularizing the Family Planning Programmes

2989. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adding 20 million people a year to the population of the country is a great challenge to our family planning programmes;

(b) whether the population growth is a vast issue needing immediate focus of Government; and

(c) if so, the constructive steps being taken to popularize the programmes throughout the country in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The constructive steps being taken to popularize various aspects of implementation of National Family Welfare Programme and Government's commitment towards population stabilisation efforts are as under:

* One 60 Sec. Spot on RCH is telecast daily before news at 8.00 P.M. through Doordarshan. AIR is broadcasting jingles before 8.00 A.M. and 8.45 P.M. news on Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Issues. Folk music programme is being broadcast *w.e.f.* 16.8.2001 on 22 CBS Stations of Vividh Bharti. A radio sponsored programme 'Sankalp' is being broadcast every Sunday at 7.45 P.M. on RCH issues.

* The film 'Kal ka Admi' in Hindi has been completed.

* The film 'Iniya Udayam' in Tamil has also been completed.

*The film, 'Daman' has already been released on all India basis.

*The film, 'Haribhai' has also been released in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

*The film is to be shown on satellite channels and through the Directorate of Field Publicity.

*Under the Mass Media campaign on the No-Scalpel Vasectomy a